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# Friday Beat

## April 6, 2007 Edition

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For additional resources on these topics and others related to school health education and services, visit the School Health Program web site at [www.dshs.state.tx.us/schoolhealth](http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/schoolhealth)

### **Quote to Note:**

*"Character may be manifested in the great moments, but it is made in the small ones."*

■ **Phillips Brooks**

### **Program Notices and Postings:**

#### **New State Health Services Chairwoman Appointed**

On Wednesday, April 4, 2007, Gov. Rick Perry promoted Glenda Kane to be chairwoman of the State Health Services Council. She will replace Lubbock native Rudy Arredondo, who resigned as presiding officer but will continue to serve on the council. Glenda Kane has served on the Council since 2004.

As the newly named chairwoman of the State Health Services Council, she will have a role in shaping the way Texans get their health care. The State Health Services Council makes recommendations to the Department of State Health Services regarding its management, operations, policies and rules for public health, mental health and substance abuse. For more information about the State Health Services Council, visit [www.dshs.state.tx.us/council/default.shtm](http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/council/default.shtm).

### **Upcoming Conferences/ Meetings/ Professional Development:**

#### **7th Annual Environmental Health Sciences Summer Institute for K-12 Educators**

This FREE Institute will be held on July 23-26, 2007 at the Thompson Conference Center at the University of Texas at Austin and is presented by the Community Outreach and Education Program of the Center for Research on Environmental Disease at The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center Science Park - Research Division at Smithville. The purpose of the Institute is to learn how to use environmental issues to reinforce TAKS objectives in your subject area and offers an extensive variety of workshops, featuring:

- The connections between human health and the environment.
- Integration of environmental health and science into a cohesive framework for learning.
- Hands-on workshops for teachers of all grade levels (K-12) and all subjects using K-12 curricular materials, from a network of research institutions, focusing on cancer, genetics, cell biology, indoor and outdoor air pollution, lead poisoning, water quality and toxicology.

For more information visit: <http://k12summerinstitute.mdanderson.org/>

#### **Living Among Bats and Avoiding Rabies Risks - Deadline to Register April 20th**

Texas Department of State Health Services Region 7- Zoonosis Control will host a FREE "Living Among Bats and Avoiding Rabies Risks" seminar targeted to Animal control officers, animal welfare workers, veterinarians, law enforcement personnel, local health department epidemiology personnel, school nurses, school district administrators and others interested in preventing rabies in Central Texas. The seminar will be held on Friday,

April 27, 2007 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the main campus of the Texas Department of State Health Services in Austin in the first floor K-100 Lecture Hall.

The program will cover bat species in Central Texas, their habits and habitats; bats and human rabies cases in the United States; bat exclusion techniques, human rabies pre- and post exposure vaccinations and public health laws and regulations affecting bat colony removal. Pre-registration is required to attend this seminar. Registration closes on Friday April 20th. Please contact Melody Lightfoot at the regional Zoonosis Control office in Temple at 254/778-6744, ext. 2452 or [melody.lightfoot@dshs.state.tx.us](mailto:melody.lightfoot@dshs.state.tx.us) to register.

## ***Health Education:***

### **Measuring Youth Program Quality: A Guide to Assessment Tools**

This guide examines nine program-observation and quality-improvement tools and explains their purpose, history, structure, methodology, and technical properties. The report is available at [www.forumfyi.org/Files//Measuring\\_Youth\\_Program\\_Quality.pdf](http://www.forumfyi.org/Files//Measuring_Youth_Program_Quality.pdf)

## ***Healthy and Safe School Environment:***

### **Emergency Preparedness Resources**

- Preparedness and Public Health Threats: Schools Serving Children in Kindergarten through 12th Grade Fact Sheet  
[www.nphw.org/2007/images/factsheet-k-12.pdf](http://www.nphw.org/2007/images/factsheet-k-12.pdf)
- Preparedness Assessment: Are you prepared for the next public health emergency?  
[www.nphw.org/2007/pg\\_howprepared.htm](http://www.nphw.org/2007/pg_howprepared.htm)
- Emergency Preparedness: A Quick Guide for School Staff  
[www.healthinschools.org/sh/emerg.asp](http://www.healthinschools.org/sh/emerg.asp)

### **New Tool for a Healthy School Environment**

Too many school children attend classes in school buildings that are uncomfortable, inadequate and unhealthy. Correcting problems in schools due to poor indoor air quality can often feel like a daunting task, and solutions to these problems can be expensive, long term efforts requiring structural improvements. This useful tool, *Putting the Pieces Together: An Urban School Leader's Guide to Healthy Indoor Environments* examines the challenges of urban school districts in the context of the school environment and offers practical, immediate action steps to undertake according to your leadership role.

Please contact Felisa Nobles, project coordinator at [fnobles@aasa.org](mailto:fnobles@aasa.org) to request a FREE copy.

## ***Counseling and Mental Health Services:***

### **U.S. Department of Education -- Grants for the Integration of Schools and Mental Health Systems—May 15, 2007**

The U.S. Department of Education is accepting applications for its Grants for Integration of Schools and Mental Health System program. The purpose of this program is to increase student access to high quality mental health care by developing innovative approaches that link school systems with the local mental health system. Grant amounts ranging from \$150,000-\$350,000 will be awarded to 18 applicants. Eligible applicants include state educational agencies, local educational agencies, and Indian tribes. For complete program information and application guidelines, please visit <http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20071800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2007/pdf/07-1465.pdf>

## ***Parent and Community Involvement:***

### **Emergency Preparedness Resource for Parents**

- How does your child's school respond to a medical emergency?  
[www.healthinschools.org/parents/me.htm](http://www.healthinschools.org/parents/me.htm)

## **Health Services:**

### **Back-to School Planning? Don't Forget CHIP/Children's Medicaid**

As you prepare for Back-to School activities, remember to include information about CHIP/Children's Medicaid. These low or no-cost health insurance programs help lower-income students get access to quality health care they otherwise might not be able to afford. As you know, children who have health care coverage are better prepared to learn and spend less time in the nurse's office. A recent study shows that students who lack health care coverage miss more days of school, which can have a negative impact on their academic success.

Free outreach materials on CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Program) and Children's Medicaid are available in English and Spanish at [www.chipmedicaid.org/cbo/order\\_app.asp](http://www.chipmedicaid.org/cbo/order_app.asp).

Core information about these two children's health insurance programs can be found at [www.CHIPmedicaid.org](http://www.CHIPmedicaid.org). The website answers such questions as "What does it cover," "Who qualifies," and "What is the cost?" Those who are interested can fill out an application on-screen and find organizations in their area that can help with the application process. The site also has a search feature for finding the health plans in each area that deliver CHIP and Children's Medicaid services.

For more information, call Geoff Wool (512-424-6548) or Windy Hill (512-424-6920).

### **Oral Health for Persons with Diabetes**

One of the most common oral health problems for persons with diabetes is dry mouth. Oral health is very important, as the mouth is the first part of the digestive process. The health of the mouth affects diabetes control. For further information about the connection between oral health and systemic health, visit the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research on the following link: [www.nidcr.nih.gov](http://www.nidcr.nih.gov)

### **New TSNO Website**

The Texas School Nurses Organization has recently launched their new website. The website includes information and resources on Coordinated School Health, School Nurse Practice and many more school nurse related topics. Please visit the website at [www.txsno.org/home.asp](http://www.txsno.org/home.asp).

### **Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices Releases Statement on HPV Vaccine**

*Quadrivalent Human Papillomavirus Vaccine: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)* summarizes the epidemiology of human papillomavirus (HPV) and associated diseases, describes the licensed HPV vaccine, and provides recommendations for its use for vaccination among females ages 9-26 in the United States. The recommendations, published in the March 23, 2007, issue of MMWR Recommendations and Reports, represent the first ACIP statement on the use of a quadrivalent HPV vaccine licensed by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration on June 8, 2006. The report is available at [www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5602a1.htm?s\\_cid=rr5602a1\\_e](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5602a1.htm?s_cid=rr5602a1_e)

### **Oral Health Manual for School Nurses**

*The Oral Health Manual for School Nurses* has been revised and updated and is available on the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Oral Health website. It contains valuable information for the school nurse regarding dental emergencies as well as basic information regarding the importance of good oral health as it relates to general health. To download a copy of the guide, please visit [www.dshs.state.tx.us/dental/pdf/oh\\_sch\\_nurse\\_manual.pdf](http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/dental/pdf/oh_sch_nurse_manual.pdf). For general information on oral health, please visit the DSHS Oral Health Group's website at [www.dshs.state.tx.us/dental/default.shtm](http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/dental/default.shtm).

## **Nutrition Services:**

### **Food Assistance and Nutrition Research Program, Fiscal 2007, Competitive Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program—Deadline: May 21, 2007**

The Economic Research Service's Food Assistance and Nutrition Research Program is now accepting proposals for grants and cooperative agreements for Fiscal 2007. The three priority research areas are (1) Food Choices: Economic Determinants and Consequences, (2) Economic Incentives in Food Assistance Programs, and (3) Food Assistance as an Economic Safety Net. For more information on how to apply, please download the guidelines at [www.ers.usda.gov/publications/AP/ap020/ap020.pdf](http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/AP/ap020/ap020.pdf).

### **Food Safety for Upcoming Holidays**

The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) released food safety

guidelines on March 26 for help in preparing holiday meals this spring--specifically Easter and Passover. Many tips provided could be useful for school cafeterias and families. For tips to share with staff and to send home with students, please visit [www.fsis.usda.gov/News\\_&\\_Events/NR\\_032607\\_01/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News_&_Events/NR_032607_01/index.asp).

External links to other sites appearing in the Friday Beat are intended to be informational and do not represent an endorsement by the Department of State Health Services. These sites may also not be accessible to people with disabilities. External email links are provided to you as a courtesy. Please be advised that you are not emailing the DSHS and DSHS policies do not apply should you choose to correspond.

For information about any of the programs listed, contact the sponsoring organization directly. For comments or questions about the Friday Beat, contact Laurie Anderson, information listed below.

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